

RODNEY E. VERKEY

CLASS OF 1964



Rod's long career in sports as a player, coach and administrator started in Tyre and continues today. Raised there on a farm, the strong tradition of sports participation all began at the Verkey home. Rod's parents, Abe & Helen, began this tradition of sports participation that continues to the present. Six decades of athletes have played for Mynderse Academy (and Waterloo), including children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rod's High School athletic career included Football, Basketball and Baseball. A two-year starter in all three sports, Rod received 2nd Team All-League honors in Football and Basketball, 2nd Team All-New York State in Football and 2nd in league scoring in Basketball. He was voted the "Athlete of the Year" in 1964. Rod also served as Block "M" President and was the Senior Class Treasurer.

Rod was recruited by several colleges, including Syracuse University, Cornell, Colgate, University of Buffalo and Ithaca. Rod chose to pursue his post-graduate studies at Cortland State, where he played Football, Basketball and one year of Track, while majoring in Physical Education. While at Cortland, Rod led the Basketball Team in shooting percentage and was 2nd in rebounding and double figures in scoring average. However, it was in Football that Rod truly came into his own. He was a 3-year starter at tight-end and defensive-end. Utilizing the skills that Mynderse Academy Head Coach, George Davis, taught and instilled in him, Rod set records in pass receiving and the number of touchdowns scored in a game, season and career. These accomplishments resulted in Rod being named to the 1st Team All-American Squad for 1967. He was also voted the Cortland Athlete of the Year for 1967-68.

Upon graduation, Rod signed three NFL contracts; two with Atlanta and one with Buffalo.

Returning to upstate New York, Rod entered into his career of teaching, coaching and administration. After brief positions at Cazenovia, Union Springs and South Seneca, Rod settled in at Lyons High School for twenty-eight years, retiring in 2001. During his career at Lyons High School, Rod served as a teacher and Athletic Director for twenty-five years. He also served Section V and Wayne County as an administrator and leader. He was a member of the Section V High Schools governing body and the Executive Council, holding positions of the Boys' Vice President and contract negotiator. He also served as the Wayne County Athletic Association President and Vice President for many years. In 2001, Rod was voted Athletic Director of the Year for Section V and continues to serve as the Wayne County Basketball Officials Assigner and Chairman, as well as representative to the Section V "Fair Play" Committee.

As a coach, Rod coached many different sports, but made his mark in Basketball at Lyons High School. During a 7-year career, Rod's teams won over eighty-one percent of their games, going to the section finals five times, winning three, with a New York State Championship in 1980. He won 3 sectional "Coach of the Year" awards.

Rod's career has resulted in his selection to the Lyons High School, Section V Football, Section V Basketball, Cortland State's Hall of Fame, and now, the Mynderse Academy Hall of Fame.

Despite his many accomplishments, Rod says his greatest satisfaction has come from his family's accomplishments and the friendships he has made along the way. He considers himself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to raise his family in Seneca Falls, having them attend Mynderse Academy and compete in Section V.

Rod and Charlene are the parents of Jason, Matt (Jodie) and Andrew (Kimmy); grandparents of Jason, Hayley, Ashlee, Maddie and Peyton.